



Office of the State Superintendent of Education

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
MAYOR ADRIAN M. FENTY

## **Overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth (MKV) Program**



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**As Authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as Amended**

# Unanswered Questions

- If you have an unanswered question after the webinar, please e-mail the presenters with your question
- Presenter e-mails are shown on the final slide

# **ROLE OF THE OSSE**

The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) has the statutory responsibility to assure that all children between the ages of five and seventeen, residing in the District of Columbia, receive an education.

# Overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Children and Youth (MKV) Program

## AGENDA

- Purpose
- Eligibility
- Barriers
- Role of Local Liaison
- Key Provisions
- Grant Programs

## **PURPOSE OF THE MKV PROGRAM**

The MKV program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

# AGENDA



## Purpose

- Eligibility
- Barriers
- Liaisons
- Key Provisions
- Grant Programs

# Eligibility—Who is Covered?

- Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**—
  - Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason
  - Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations
  - Living in emergency or transitional shelters
  - Abandoned in hospitals

## **Eligibility— Who is Covered? (cont.)**

- Awaiting foster care placement
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live
- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, etc.
- Migratory children living in above circumstances



# AGENDA



Purpose



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# Barriers to Education for Homeless Children and Youth



# Barriers to Education for Homeless Children and Youth

- Enrollment requirements (school records, immunizations, proof of residence and guardianship)
- High mobility resulting in lack of school stability and educational continuity
- Lack of access to programs
- Lack of **transportation**
- Lack of school supplies, clothing, etc.
- Poor health, fatigue, hunger
- Prejudice and misunderstanding

# AGENDA



Purpose



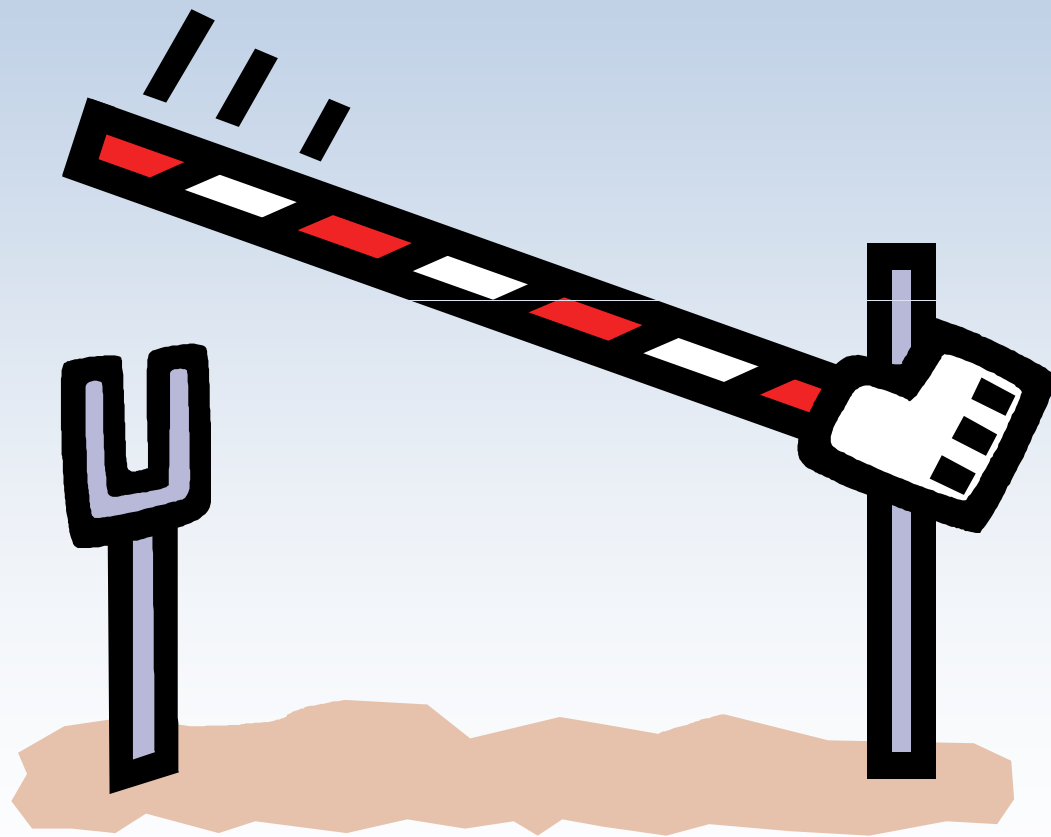
Eligibility



Barriers

- Liaisons
- Key Provisions
- Grant Programs

# Local Homeless Education Liaisons



# Local Homeless Education Liaisons

- Every LEA, whether or not it receives a McKinney-Vento sub grant, **must designate a local liaison** for homeless children and youth.
- Select a person who:
  - is familiar with (or is willing to familiarize him/herself with) McKinney-Vento requirements
  - is willing and able to carry out the requirements
  - has direct knowledge of the student body and community resources
  - Does not have a conflict of interest

# **Local Homeless Education Liaisons**

- Responsibilities
  - Ensure that children and youth in homeless situations are identified
  - Ensure that homeless students enroll in and have full and equal opportunity to succeed in school
  - Link with educational services, including preschool and health services

# Local Homeless Education Liaisons (cont.)

- Inform **parents, guardians, or youth** of educational and parent involvement opportunities
- Post **public notice** of educational rights
- Resolve **disputes**
- Inform parents, guardians, or youth of **transportation services**, including the school of origin



## **ONCE A STUDENT IS IDENTIFIED:**

Complete the Title X Part C McKinney-Vento Confidential Referral Form found on the OSSE website. Your LEA representative must submit the information collected to OSSE.

(<http://seo.dc.gov/seo/frames.asp?doc=/seo/lib/seo/pdf/hcypreferrallform.pdf>)

# AGENDA



Purpose



Eligibility



Barriers



Liaisons

- Key Provisions
- Grant Programs

## KEY PROVISIONS —School Stability

- Children and youth experiencing homelessness can stay in their school of origin or enroll in any public school that students living in the same attendance area are eligible to attend, according to their best interest
- School of origin—school attended when permanently housed or in which **last enrolled**
- Best interest— **keep homeless students** in their schools of origin, to the extent feasible, unless this is against the parents' or guardians' wishes

## **KEY PROVISIONS — Feasibility**

- Continuity of instruction
- Age of the child or youth
- Safety of the child or youth
- Length of stay at the shelter
- Likely area where family will find permanent housing
- Student's need for special instructional programs
- Impact of commute on education
- School placement of siblings
- Time remaining in the school year

## KEY PROVISIONS — *School Selection*

- Students can stay in their school of origin **the entire time they are homeless**, and until the end of any academic year in which they move into permanent housing
- If a student becomes homeless in **between academic years, he or she may continue** in the school of origin for the following academic year
- If a student is sent to a school other than that requested by a parent or guardian, the district must provide a **written explanation** to the parent or guardian of its decision and the right to appeal

## KEY PROVISIONS — Transportation

- LEAs **must provide students experiencing homelessness with transportation to and from their school of origin, at a parent's or guardian's request** (or at the liaisons request for unaccompanied youth)

## KEY PROVISIONS — Resolution of Disputes

- Every state must **establish dispute resolution procedures**
- When a dispute over enrollment arises, the student must be **admitted immediately** to the school of choice while the dispute is being resolved
- Liaisons must ensure unaccompanied youth are enrolled immediately while the dispute is being resolved

## **KEY PROVISIONS — Homeless Unaccompanied Youth**

- Definition: youth who meets the definition of homeless and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian
- Liaisons must help unaccompanied youth choose and enroll in a school, after considering the youth's wishes, and inform the youth of his or her appeal rights
- School personnel must be made aware of the specific needs of runaway and homeless youth.



## KEY PROVISIONS — Preschool-Aged Children

- Liaisons must ensure that families and children have **access** to Head Start, Even Start, and other public preschool programs administered by the LEA
- State plans must **describe procedures** that ensure that homeless children have access to public preschool programs

## KEY PROVISIONS — Access to Services

- **Undocumented children** and youth have the same right to attend public school as U.S. citizens and are covered by the McKinney-Vento Act to the same extent as other children and youth (*Plyler v. Doe*)

## KEY PROVISIONS — Access to Services (cont.)

- **USDA policy** permits liaisons and shelter directors to obtain free school meals for students by providing a list of names of students experiencing homelessness with effective dates
- The 2004 reauthorization of IDEA includes amendments that **reinforce timely assessment**, inclusion, and continuity of services for homeless children and youth who have disabilities

## KEY PROVISIONS — Segregation

- States are **prohibited** from segregating homeless students in separate schools, separate programs within schools, or separate settings within schools
- SEAs and LEAs must adopt policies and practices to ensure that homeless children and youth are not segregated or **stigmatized** on the basis of their status as homeless
- Services provided with McKinney-Vento funds **must not replace the regular academic program** and must be designed to expand upon or improve services provided as part of the school's regular academic program

## KEY PROVISIONS — Title I and Homelessness

A child or youth who is homeless and is attending any school in the district is **automatically eligible for Title IA services**

## **Title I—Services for Homeless Students**

- Services for homeless students in both Title I and non-Title I schools are comparable to those provided to non-homeless students in Title I schools.
- Services that are not ordinarily provided to other Title I students and that are not available from other sources.

# AGENDA

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## **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) MKV Program**

The MKV ARRA funds are a one-time source of funds that supplement the MKV funds made available under the regular FY 2009 appropriation in order to address the educational and related needs of some of the most vulnerable members of our society – homeless children and youth – during a time of economic crisis in the United States.



## **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) McKinney-Vento Homeless Program**

Nine (9) Local Educational Agencies receive funding through this program.

- **Community Academy Public Charter School - \$27,815.27**
- **District of Columbia Public Schools -\$123,224.66**
- **Friendship Public Charter School -\$4,785.42**
- **Hospitality Public Charter School -\$1,495.44**
- **KIPP Public Charter School -\$3,888.15**
- **Meridian Public Charter School -\$1,495.44**
- **Options Public Charter School -\$4,486.33**
- **Sail Public Charter School -\$299.08**
- **Young America Works Public Charter School-\$2,093.62**

# Sources/Resources

- LEGISLATION:  
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/homeless/legislation.html>
- GUIDANCE:  
<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/homeless/guidance.pdf>
- OSSE WEBSITE:  
<http://seo.dc.gov/seo/cwp/view.asp?a=3&Q=561725&PM=1>
- [www.naehcy.org](http://www.naehcy.org)
- OSSE STIMULUS INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE:  
<http://www.osse.dc.gov/seo/cwp/view,a,1222,q,563440.asp>

# Sources/Resources

- Liaison Toolkit:

<http://center.serve.org/nche/downloads/toolkit/toolkit.pdf>

# Questions



# Contact Information

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